

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: EDITORIAL IN UAE GOVERNMENT PRESS RE USG STATEMENT ON
PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN SPET 13 ISSUE OF UAE GOVERN-
MENT-OWNED AL-ITTIHAD NEWSPAPER:

QUOTE: WE WELCOME THE RECENT AMERICAN STATEMENT WHICH IS
DESCRIBED AS THE FRANKEST STATEMENT UNTIL NOW AS IT RECOGNIZED
FOR THE FIRST TIME THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING PEACE IN THE MIDEAST AND THAT THERE
CAN BE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE.

QUOTE: HOWEVER, THERE REMAIN TWO POINTS WORTHY OF EXAMINATION
AND STUDY. AS FOR THE FIRST PROBLEM, LET US BEGIN BY ASKING:
WHO ARE THE PALESTINIANS WHOSE PARTICIPATION THE US ENVISIONS
AT GENEVA? OR PUT ANOTHER WAY: IS THE US GOING ALONG THE
STRAIGHT ROAD THAT IS THE SHORTEST DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO POINTS?
DOES IT RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PLO AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, OR IS IT MAKING THIS QUESTION A
MATTER FOR STERILE DEBATE, ADOPTING THE ISRAELI NOTION WHICH PRE-
TENDS THERE ARE PALESTINIANS OTHER THAN THE PLO ABLE TO DEAL WITH
THEM. DEFINITION OF THIS POINT WILL REVEAL HOW SERIOUS IS THE US IN
EMBRACING THE PEACE EFFORTS.

QUOTE: AS FOR THE SECOND QUESTION WHICH NEEDS CLARIFICATION,
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IT CONCERNS UNSC RES. 242 WHICH WASHINGTON SEES AS THE ONLY BASIS
FOR THE PEACE AGREEMENT. THE US KNOWS MORE THAN OTHERS THE CIRCUM-
STANCES WHICH LED TO THE DRAFTING OF THIS RESOLUTION SINCE IT
DOES NOT TREAT THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE AS A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT IN
THE DISPUTE, CONSIDERING IT AS A REFUGEE PROBLEM. HERE IT
BECOMES A PRESSING NECESSITY TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION SO THAT IT GOES
ALONG WITH WHAT THE US ITSELF RECOGNIZED IN ITS STATEMENT: INNER

QUOTE. THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO IGNORE THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION
IF WE WANT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE OTHER PROBLEM. END INNER QUOTE.
QUOTE: AGAIN, WE SAY THAT THE US POSITION ON THIS POINT WILL
REVEAL HOW SERIOUS IT IS ABOUT REACHING A JUST AND LASTING PEACE.
END QUOTE.
DICKMAN

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